

The Florida Scandal.

Somewhat of a commotion was raised in Washington last week by the confessions, real and supposed, of McLean and Dennis of Florida. McLean was a member of the canvassing board and his vote with that of Dr. Cowgill made such disposal of contested returns as gave the state to Hayes. Dennis was formerly a Massachusetts captain and was a "worker" in the 1876 campaign. McLean was nominated by President Hayes to a territorial judgeship but the nomination was rejected by the senate. Dennis has been a revenue officer but has resigned or been removed.

This McLean is in a very uncomfortable frame of mind—far different from that of the once famous Brian O'Lin who endured with tranquil and even happy mind great trials—and in that frame feels to relieve his burdened conscience by confessing not his own, but other people's sins. McLean did not mean to do anything wrong but other folks did, he says, especially Mr. Hayes—and Mr. Hayes is a man of such littleness that McLean cannot sufficiently despise him.

Dennis has not made his full statement yet and it is not known what it will amount to in the end. Whether these "confessions" have been worked up by persons in the interest of Tilden or by republicans of the William E. Chandler school is not known. But the Blairites and the Chandlerites take most delight in the revelations.

It is very probable that an investigation will be ordered by the house into the stories of these men. There is no probability however that if the confessions should turn out to be true as to friends committed to the practical effect of them will amount to anything in the way of changing executives.

The campaign of 1876 was a bitter one and like a good many others embraced actions by both parties that the light of day would shame. The result of the election was as doubtful as its methods, and the hot partisans of each side insisted they had won and were ready for civil war in support of their opinions. It happened that there was a grave question as to who had the ultimate right of saying which side had won. It was for these reasons, because there was a fairly disputable question on which the fighting blood of half the nation was aroused and because there was no tribunal acknowledged by both sides as the proper one to decide the contention, and because the good of the country required a peaceable arbitration of this thing that the two great parties would not agree upon in their belief, that we persistently advocated the creation of the electoral commission.

And this we did believing that the chances were more likely than not, to be in favor of the democratic candidate.

It was impossible for the electoral commission, and will be impossible for any body of men in the future to right the wrongs of the election of 1876. Those wrongs—that is those things that were beyond the petty deceptions and tricks that tainted most contested elections on both sides—were first the "Mississippi plan" adopted by the southern democrats; secondly the ways that were dark and sly; and thirdly, the ways that were not dark, adopted by southern republicans to deprive this plan from accomplishing its object. By this shot-gun policy the states of Mississippi and Alabama were given to Tilden—the ballot boxes not being allowed to record the wish of the majority. By the same policy the ballot boxes of Louisiana were made to count a lie, and the plotters in South Carolina just missed obtaining the same result.

How it was in the matter of intimidation in Florida we do not profess to have any state founded judgment, nor whether the state honestly belonged to Hayes or Tilden. The probability is that there was trickery and cheating on both sides. It may turn out that McLean and Dennis and others were committing republican frauds—they say in substance they were and they ought to know. They will probably convince more democrats than republicans of it however for it remains true that there is great aptitude in both parties for believing what each wants to believe.

The sum of it all was that the democrats by highway robbery took from the republicans the three states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, and were nearly successful in making off with South Carolina. While they were carrying their train to a place of safety the republicans were laid those who had Louisiana in charge and under the guise of law became possessed of the disputed chattel. The right and title to the five states in question was never pure, the ballot box was corrupted before and after the votes were put in, and whoever had the votes of either of those states had them under a cloud, had them as a thief in the night has that with which he flees from his fellow. The title to the presidency was defiled whether the name of Hayes or Tilden should be written in the patent.

The electoral commission and the refusal of the southern to join in the plot to overthrow its decision saved the country from a worse war than that of the rebellion. It gave the country an honorable peace, and settled the question who should be president. If Mr. Tilden or anybody else believes that the question was not lawfully decided, and that the wrong man was hit, the courts are open and we have no sympathy with those who would condemn Tilden from pursuing what he thinks are his rights, wherever he can find them.

The investigations proposed are all right. The men who have been howling about Mr. Hayes' recency to his party will find that if there has been cheating it was their own kind of republicans that did it. And dark as may prove the performances in the Louisiana and Florida count of votes whenever the democratic party will deliberately go into a future campaign on a cry that its opponents have debased the purity of elections it will find itself beaten by the application of the doctrine of estoppel, *argumentum ad hominem*, more familiarly called the "you're another," will block its way at every step.

The republican congressional committee are going to send campaign orators down south in the approaching campaign, especially in the districts where the negroes preponderate.

State Politics.

The Woodstock Standard favors Col. George A. Merrill of Rutland as candidate for governor. Commenting on the Standard article, the Burlington Free Press says:

Col. Merrill is a good man. The Standard does not praise him too highly. But we do not see what can be gained for any Rutland county candidate, by bringing him out now. Clearly the most that can be accomplished by it, in the present attitude of affairs, would be to make it certain that no Rutland county man could receive the nomination. We esteem Col. Merrill too highly to wish to see him brought out simply to kill off another worthy Rutland man; or in any way that would be likely to injure his chances when—as we trust may be hereafter the case—his name can be presented with the substantial backing of the republicans of his county.

Of course if Col. Merrill is brought forward in bad faith simply to kill off another man the movement should be "pointed at with the finger of scorn." But the friends of Col. Merrill have a perfect right to advocate his nomination and when they do it weeks before the convention it is difficult to see at this distance why their advocacy should be attributed to a desire to kill somebody else off. Does the Free Press forget the campaign of 1874?

This killing off of candidates is a large sized humbug. A good many who claim to have been killed off never had any life except in their own imaginations. And even when a genuine case of killing off does occur, it is generally done by an apparently distant foe. We do not believe the chances for nominating a Rutland county man would be damaged if the three colonels, Veazey, Proctor and Merrill, should all three come into the convention with some honest backing from that county. This notion that a man must have his own "county" is very likely to damage a man of strong, positive character and assist some "good fellow" who is expert in wire-pulling.

We learn there is a very general wish in Addison county to present the name of Gov. Stewart in the coming congressional convention in this district, but the governor, they all say, "won't do anything to help himself," so his candidacy is problematical, depending on providence and spontaneous combustion, the two things that Gerard, the New York lawyer, said he always relied on before a petty jury.

At St. Albans, Sunday, \$12,500 was raised to pay the debt on the Methodist church.

The old proverb is: "Betwixt April and May if there be rain, it is worth more than oxen or grain."

Petroleum V. Nasby has got back again to the Toledo Blade, where he made his fame and fortune.

Good news from Mississippi—the Murphy movement seems to be carrying the various cities by storm.

Russia and England face to face, do not know whether to advance or retreat. A cartoon in the Graphic indicates that both will go back.

There is one plank in General Banks' platform for 1878 that almost any congressman could stand on. It is on the subject of finance, and is in these words: "I don't want gold."

The St. Albans Messenger advocates the nomination of Bradley Barlow for congress. The Burlington Free Press opposes Barlow strongly, and talks favorably of re-nominating Mr. Hendee.

Saratoga dispatches say that John Morrissey's right arm became paralyzed on Sunday. He has not spoken since, although he has seemed to recognize people. The doctors report him as sinking fast.

Gen. Henry Smalley of New York, son of the late Judge Smalley, has been off on a prolonged tour, and when last heard from was in Canada. His wife Julia has brought suit for divorce charging adultery.

The funniest joke of to-day comes from Paris, and is to the effect that the army of honorary commissioners to the exposition from the United States will have to pay like common people every time they go in.

We see it announced that the Co-operative company of Springfield, Vt., are to remove to Fairfax county, Virginia, where they have purchased 300 acres of land and propose to take their machinery and carry on manufacturing and farming.

A carefully prepared table has just been completed by Dr. Hitebeck of Amherst college, which proves from statistics concerning eleven New England colleges, that there are proportionately less college-educated men now than in the early part of the century.

Hannibal Hamlin, in his tour through the south and from Cuba, stopped over a day in Richmond on the way back, and told a prominent citizen that the negro is better off now than he was under the old régime, and that he thought the colored people in Virginia were getting on better than the laboring class at the north.

One of the patriarchs of the New York postoffice died, the other day, in the person of John H. Hallett, superintendent of the "Inquiry and Dead Letter Department," who had seen fifty-one years of continuous service, and had only one senior—Charles Forrester, who has been a postoffice clerk for fifty-three years. Mr. Hallett was buried in 1826.

Some fourteen years ago the Atlantic Monthly had a very entertaining article on the "Total Depravity of Inanimate Things." We never knew the types to sweat of their own accord till last week when they clunged an innocent word in our leader into a profane one, made a mighty out of what should have been night, and so forth. But these things move us not.

There was a sad tragedy in Cambridge Sunday afternoon. Barney Gray, a young man laboring for Thomas Edwards, at East Cambridge, shot his brother, John Gray, with a shot gun, killing him instantly. They were visiting, with others, in Edwards' barn, when Barney took a gun and pointed it saying, "look out; I'll shoot you," fired, and the shot took effect in the neck, nearly severing the head. The gun was supposed to be unloaded.

Gold and greenbacks are once more practically at par. Gold took its first start on January 13th, 1876, when it sold for \$1.03; on Christmas day of the same year it was \$1.32; in March, 1877, it reached its highest point, \$2.85; receding in February, 1878, it was \$2.00; in January, 1878, \$1.45; for the next three days it averaged about \$1.35; Black Friday, September 24, 1873, sent it up to \$1.67; December 31, 1877, it was \$1.07; December 31, 1877, it was \$1.02 3/4, and April 15, 1878, it was \$1.00 1/2, since which time it has fluctuated, never reaching \$1.01.

[From Our Regular Correspondent.]

Washington Letter.

WASHINGTON, April 27.

The Florida "sensation," as it is here styled in official circles, or, in other words, the confessions of McLean, Dennis or others, who were members of the Florida returning board, has occupied the greater part of public attention here as elsewhere. Whether these confessions be true or false is of comparatively little consequence now except as showing the character of the man whose performances the country watched with breathless interest in the winter of 1876-77, and nearly went to war over; and as showing, also, the enormous importance of arranging some plain mode of deciding disputes at the count in Washington before another election. We are in the second year of Mr. Hayes' term and congress is near adjournment, and nothing has yet been done, although it is morally certain that the country will be in a most indelible condition on the subject in 1880.

The death of William Evans, son of the secretary of state, though long expected, has cast a gloom over the department over which a father presides, and given to the bereaved parents the sympathy of all good citizens. The deceased recently returned from China (where he has been engaged in mercantile pursuits), for the benefit of his health, and it will be remembered that Secretary and Mrs. Evans went west a short time ago to meet him in Omaha on his homeward journey from San Francisco. He died yesterday, of consumption, aged twenty-seven.

Owing to the appropriation for printing having been exhausted, the recently appointed postmaster, to the number of some eight hundred, could not receive their commissions, all the blanks having been made up. But congress having passed the "deficiency bill," they will all be made happy within a few days, as the public printer is now turning out these commissions as fast as his press will permit it.

The passage of this bill also enables the patent office to resume the publication of the "Official Gazette," which was suspended for a week or two, and the printing of the patents passed to issue, which have been delayed for a like reason.

Quite a little excitement was caused last night in the neighborhood of police headquarters on the discovery of a case of miscegenation under peculiar circumstances. It appears that a colored man, Alfred Hammond, had been arrested and placed in limbo to recover from the effects of a "big drink." Shortly after his incarceration, a very handsome white woman, of the pure blonde type, came to the station and begged permission to see him, stating that it was the first time he had ever been on a spree. Her earnestness and evident emotion in the matter induced inquiries, and it was found that she was the negro's wife. When her husband recovered from the effects of his dissipation, he was allowed to go home, accompanied by the weeping wife, and with an almonst "never to do it again." An investigation brought to light quite a romance about this woman. A few years ago she was living at Cincinnati, one of the most beautiful of the town—a queen of the demi-monde of Pockpork. But the life she led grew distasteful to her; there was enough of the pure womanly instinct about her to cause a yearning for a virtuous life again, and this modern Aspidochelone abdicated her dissolute sceptre, retired from the public gaze, and came to this city of reform to reform.

Unfortunately for her good intentions, however, she met here old acquaintances, who recognized her, and her reputation stuck. It followed her in every effort to obtain employment, and finally she seemed determined to thrust her back into her old mode of life, when she met the negro who is now her husband. He was the only human being, she says, who had shown her kindness in her hour of adversity, and she married him, proving to be an affectionate wife.

Passing through the White House grounds yesterday, I saw the cow that furnishes the administration with milk. For it to be known, that the administration keeps four horses, but only one single solitary cow. President Grant bought his milk ready made, but Mr. Hayes, who is of a more economical turn of mind, has it made on the premises. The aforesaid cow is an animal of some consequence to the nation; for as a man's humor is affected by his bile, and his bile is affected by the milk he drinks, so, if this cow should sour Mr. Hayes' stomach, he might, in some way, make us feel it. It is not a pretty specimen of a cow, being rather lank and jawed than otherwise, loquacious, and with a "crumpled horn;" but in view of its intimate relations to the administration's bowels, it is an interesting cow, nevertheless. But she ought to be kept away from the garlie patches, or there may be trouble in the country!

The committee on ways and means has agreed to vote next Tuesday on the proposition to suspend for five years the payment to the sinking fund; and on the following day Senator Gordon of Georgia will make an elaborate speech on the subject of the finances. For the rest, a considerable part of the coming week will be occupied by debates on the tariff question, and, in the senate, by the consideration of the bill which provides for the repeal of the bankrupt law. As this bill, which passed the house yesterday, will probably also pass the senate, receive the president's signature, and become a law within a week, merchants and others who intend to avail themselves of the old law had better hurry up, file their petitions in bankruptcy at once and make "assignments;" or it will be too late and there will be no profit in failing!

MARKET GARDENING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The raising of early vegetables and fruits for the northern markets in South Carolina is largely increasing from year to year. This business is particularly flourishing in the vicinity of Charleston, where on "the Neck" alone, as it is called, there are 1000 acres are so planted to potatoes, many farmers growing about one acre. They pay \$3 a barrel for seed and will probably average \$4 a barrel for their crop, which at the average yield of 20 barrels to the acre would bring an income of \$20,000 for the territory planted. In the same locality 200 acres are devoted to strawberries, which are expected to yield a gross profit of \$150 an acre to the grower. One day recently 50,000 quarts of strawberries were shipped northward on one steamer. Green peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, beans, etc., are also profitably raised in considerable quantities. Till comparatively lately this source of income was unknown to the South Carolina farmers, and with the increase of transportation facilities and the demand for the produce of the middle-west, who now seem to absorb a large share of the profits, this new form of agriculture in the state promises to grow to immense proportions.

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The Springfield Republicans objects to the war drama, "The Drummer Boy," now on the stage in that city, because, "it is calculated to foster the intense, bitter animosities of the war in a decidedly unwholesome manner, and to excite the passions of the people to such a degree that it is unwholesome to have the true story of the war told."

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Later details confirm the disastrous effects of the recent storms in Iowa. A house was blown down at Sioux City, and a child was carried from the arms of its mother into a marsh east of the house, and the mother was found half a mile west. A man was blown up into the air and retained her a longer time, but other engagements called her away. She has accepted an invitation to deliver the Decoration Day address at her home, South Bend, Ind.

Dr. Dr. John Hall says four perils threaten our young men—shallowness, a mistaken conception of what constitutes success, a certain unsettled life, and the danger that comes from being surrounded by flattering influences. He also says there are four perils threatening the community—democratic republicanism, a weak commercial spirit, an exaggerated idea of personal freedom, and the feebleness of religious life among us.

The unexpected success of the new national party in the recent Michigan elections does not seem so strange when all the facts are known. In the first place, a good many candidates elected on "greenback" tickets actually repudiate any affiliation with the "nationals," and in the second place, the falling out of recognition of a man who was elected in a number of cases because the democrats nominated no candidates but turned in and helped the new party in the hope of thereby demoralizing the republicans. Still, there are a good many genuine nationals in Michigan.

A singular instance of the ingenuity of birds was noticed at Detroit the other day, where two robins were seen to be toiling away at a small toy basket, which had been left in a door yard. Evidently thinking it would make a palatial nest, the birds were pulling and dragging it along over the grass, but were unable to get it into a hole. In consequence, however, they accordingly left it, but soon returned with a string about eight feet long, which they drew through the basket, and, having fastened it to the handle, they walked away with the basket hanging on its string between them.

The Ohio Legislature has not yet got rid of Representative O'Connor, the convict and general scoundrel. The House finally refused to accept his resignation, and resolved to make an investigation. O'Connor thinks this is pretty mean, and in the name of other men who may get into trouble, he protests against opening the door for the protruding nose of inquiry to walk into the private record of every member—which would certainly be one of the most remarkable peccadilloes in the history of the world.

The champion office holder of the world is Mr. Frank Johnson, a Kentuckian, who is individually and simultaneously acting as District Commissioner, District Judge, District Magistrate, Revenue Commissioner, President of the County, and Mayor of the City. He is a man of many talents, and his record is a record of many triumphs.

The obelisk which the New England Granite Company of Hartford are making for the Troy, N. Y., cemetery, in memory of General Wood, is probably the largest in the country. It is 25 feet high, and weighs 150 tons. It is a single stone, five feet square at the base, and weighing 150 tons. It is a single stone, five feet square at the base, and weighing 150 tons.

There is quite a little scare just now on the subject of Communism in this country. The other day a report came from Chicago that four thousand Communists were arriving and drilling in that city, and a New York paper prints a long article on the threatening growth of the international society in the United States. There is no doubt that the Communists are a dangerous element in the country, and their activities are increasing. It is a matter of some concern to the government, and it is a matter of some concern to the people.

Washington special says that not more than three hundred thousand silver dollars have been paid out in exchange for gold. There has been no demand for them. The great city of Boston called for only twelve thousand dollars. Silver enough has been coined now to permit the treasury to commence paying it out, and the government has ordered that silver shall be paid out for currency obligations to the extent that the government is authorized to do so. The treasury has ordered that this amount shall be replaced by silver dollars, and it has been paid out in the current course of business. This will be done through the various sub-treasuries.

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Later details confirm the disastrous effects of the recent storms in Iowa. A house was blown down at Sioux City, and a child was carried from the arms of its mother into a marsh east of the house, and the mother was found half a mile west. A man was blown up into the air and retained her a longer time, but other engagements called her away. She has accepted an invitation to deliver the Decoration Day address at her home, South Bend, Ind.

The unexpected success of the new national party in the recent Michigan elections does not seem so strange when all the facts are known. In the first place, a good many candidates elected on "greenback" tickets actually repudiate any affiliation with the "nationals," and in the second place, the falling out of recognition of a man who was elected in a number of cases because the democrats nominated no candidates but turned in and helped the new party in the hope of thereby demoralizing the republicans. Still, there are a good many genuine nationals in Michigan.

A singular instance of the ingenuity of birds was noticed at Detroit the other day, where two robins were seen to be toiling away at a small toy basket, which had been left in a door yard. Evidently thinking it would make a palatial nest, the birds were pulling and dragging it along over the grass, but were unable to get it into a hole. In consequence, however, they accordingly left it, but soon returned with a string about eight feet long, which they drew through the basket, and, having fastened it to the handle, they walked away with the basket hanging on its string between them.

The Ohio Legislature has not yet got rid of Representative O'Connor, the convict and general scoundrel. The House finally refused to accept his resignation, and resolved to make an investigation. O'Connor thinks this is pretty mean, and in the name of other men who may get into trouble, he protests against opening the door for the protruding nose of inquiry to walk into the private record of every member—which would certainly be one of the most remarkable peccadilloes in the history of the world.

The champion office holder of the world is Mr. Frank Johnson, a Kentuckian, who is individually and simultaneously acting as District Commissioner, District Judge, District Magistrate, Revenue Commissioner, President of the County, and Mayor of the City. He is a man of many talents, and his record is a record of many triumphs.

The obelisk which the New England Granite Company of Hartford are making for the Troy, N. Y., cemetery, in memory of General Wood, is probably the largest in the country. It is 25 feet high, and weighs 150 tons. It is a single stone, five feet square at the base, and weighing 150 tons. It is a single stone, five feet square at the base, and weighing 150 tons.

There is quite a little scare just now on the subject of Communism in this country. The other day a report came from Chicago that four thousand Communists were arriving and drilling in that city, and a New York paper prints a long article on the threatening growth of the international society in the United States. There is no doubt that the Communists are a dangerous element in the country, and their activities are increasing. It is a matter of some concern to the government, and it is a matter of some concern to the people.

Washington special says that not more than three hundred thousand silver dollars have been paid out in exchange for gold. There has been no demand for them. The great city of Boston called for only twelve thousand dollars. Silver enough has been coined now to permit the treasury to commence paying it out, and the government has ordered that silver shall be paid out for currency obligations to the extent that the government is authorized to do so. The treasury has ordered that this amount shall be replaced by silver dollars, and it has been paid out in the current course of business. This will be done through the various sub-treasuries.

MARKET GARDENING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—The raising of early vegetables and fruits for the northern markets in South Carolina is largely increasing from year to year. This business is particularly flourishing in the vicinity of Charleston, where on "the Neck" alone, as it is called, there are 1000 acres are so planted to potatoes, many farmers growing about one acre. They pay \$3 a barrel for seed and will probably average \$4 a barrel for their crop, which at the average yield of 20 barrels to the acre would bring an income of \$20,000 for the territory planted. In the same locality 200 acres are devoted to strawberries, which are expected to yield a gross profit of \$150 an acre to the grower. One day recently 50,000 quarts of strawberries were shipped northward on one steamer. Green peas, tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, beans, etc., are also profitably raised in considerable quantities. Till comparatively lately this source of income was unknown to the South Carolina farmers, and with the increase of transportation facilities and the demand for the produce of the middle-west, who now seem to absorb a large share of the profits, this new form of agriculture in the state promises to grow to immense proportions.

Several changes have been made in the office of the New York Evening Post with a view of the future management of that journal. Mr. Bryant resigns his presidency of the company but retains his position as editor in chief. Judge John J. Connelley has been chosen president. Parke Godwin resumes his connection with the paper as a trustee and writer on artistic, scientific and literary topics. Isaac Henderson retires from the position as publisher, which he has held for many years, and is succeeded by his son. It is intimated that the Post will now be a democratic administration organ.

THE REPUBLICAN STATE COMMITTEE OF NORTH CAROLINA has voted down a proposition to disband. The republicans claim to have regained lost ground in the state.

New York papers report that Mrs. Henry A. Smalley has petitioned for a divorce from Col. Smalley. She has been once divorced from a former husband, whom she married when still a minor.

Postmaster-General Key seems to be well contented to satisfy the most stalwart republicans. The man he made postmaster at Chattanooga is the man who commanded the United States troops that fired the first ball in the battle of Lookout Mountain, which ball went through Mr. Key's house.

The Springfield Republicans objects to the war drama, "The Drummer Boy," now on the stage in that city, because, "it is calculated to foster the intense, bitter animosities of the war in a decidedly unwholesome manner, and to excite the passions of the people to such a degree that it is unwholesome to have the true story of the war told."

Mrs. Emma Malloy has just closed a series of